

NAVADHA BHAKTI IN PUSHTIMARG

By

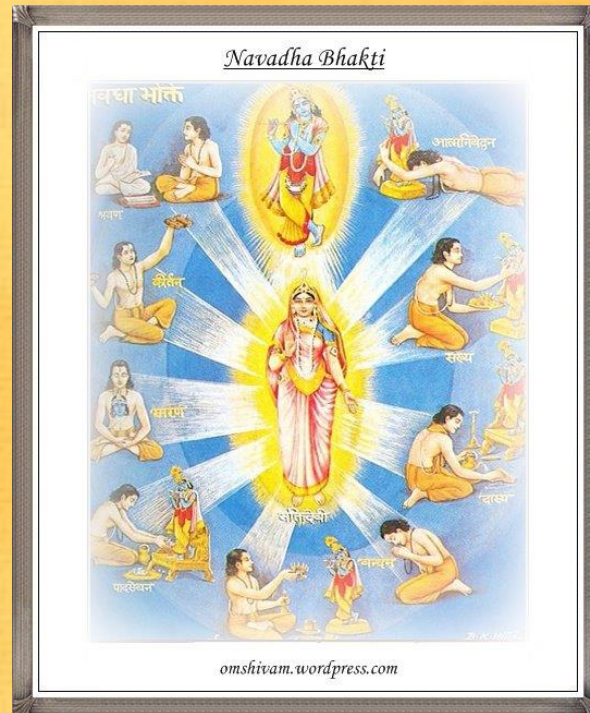
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Navadha Bhakti – The Nine Ways of Connecting with God

- 1). **SHRAVANAM**
Hearing about God
- 2). **KIRTANAM**
Singing His Name and
Glory
- 3). **SMARANAM**
Remembering Him-
Chanting
- 4). **PAD SEVANAM**
Serving His Lotus Feet
- 5). **ARCHANAM**
Worshipping Him as
per the Scriptures



- **VANDANAM**
6.) Bowing before
Him
- 7). **DASYAM**
Being His Servant
- 8). **SAKHYAM**
Befriending Him
- 9). **ATMA
NIVEDANAM**
Offering One's
Soul to Him

**For Pushtimargis,
1st 7, at Naam Mantra, last
2 at Brahmasabandh**

1). SHRAVANAM

Hearing His Holy Name (Hari Katha)



- Listening to His divine name, His divine form,
- His Qualities, Actions, Mysteries etc., and getting lost in His glorious Leela
- Who should you hear from?
- Shri Krishna says in the Gita:
- "You can get that knowledge by humbly prostrating yourself before a Jnani Guru" (4.34).
- Eg. Raja Parikshit & Maharishi Sukhdev-Went to Vaikunthlok - liberation



Shravanam In Pushtimarg

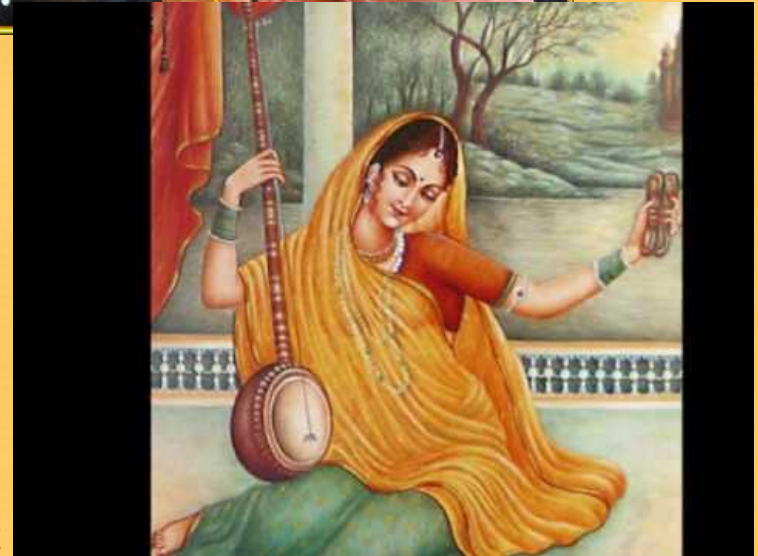
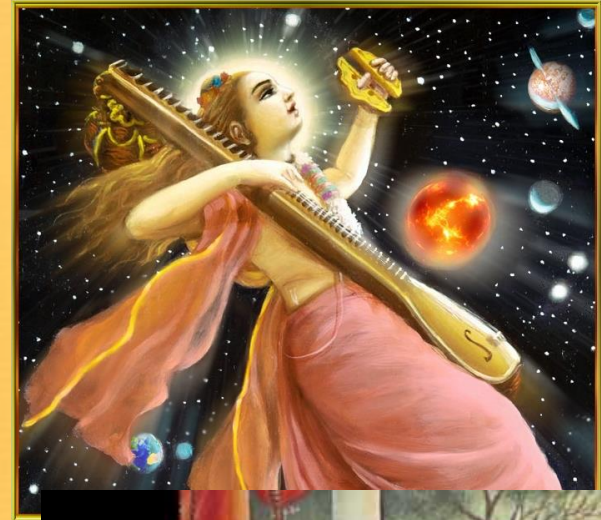
- Unlike Raja Parikshit, We do not desire liberation (Moksha) but want to remain in Thakorji's Leela forever.
- How to cross the ocean of bhakti from one bank to the other?
- Answer:-Krupa of Shri Vallabh. Is actually Swaminiji Herself and who knows more about Inner Leelas than Swaminiji.
- Shri Vallabh Himself has said one of the five ways of attaining Him after He is gone is through his lineage or bloodline, the Vallabhkul.
- Listening to JeJe's Katha, we can remain in Leela forever & lose ourself and enter the Alaukik. Other orators direct towards Moksha.

2). KIRTANAM

Singing Aloud His Holy Name or Glory

- By singing the Holy Name, obstacles removed and go into Leela
- Eg Narada Muni was cursed that he will not be able to remain in one place.

Used it to his advantage to spread the Lord's name and glory all over the three worlds.



Kirtanam In Pushtimarg

- In Kaliyug, Kirtanam has same benefits as sacrifice (Yagna) and Penance (Tap) in Satyug, Tetra Yug Dwapar Yug
- These kirtans are not works of imagination of the but actual accounts of the Lord's Leela poems, the singer's direct perceptions of the Lord.
- They are both
 - Spontaneous
 - Sentimental



The Ashtachaap Poets

- In Vraj Bhasa, Kirtans are sung in different ragas, varying according to the season, festival, and time of day.
- The Ragas linked to creation of Planet Earth:-
- When sky arose, raag-Bhairav
- When air was created-Hindola
- When water arose from the earth-Shri Raga,



Ashta Sakha

3 **SMARANAM** Remembering Him by Chanting

- Smarana is remembrance of the Lord at all times. This is unbroken memory of the Name and Form of the Lord.
- The mind does not think of any object of the world, but is ever engrossed in thinking of the glorious Lord alone.
- Examples Bhaktas Prahlad and Dhruva



Smaranam In Pushtimarg

- What comes first?-Love of God or Mala?

Two schools:-

- A If you do mala, love for God will arise. You want to get from A to B and mala is the tool
- B It is out of Krupa (Grace of God) you are doing mala. It is Love for Loves sake-Prem Lakshan Bhakti
- God is limitless. You cannot tie “Natkhat Kanhaiya” by a set formula eg. 20 malas a day. He can do what He likes, whenever He likes. Otherwise, you are saying the procedure is bigger than God and God is limitless.
- Only when Love arises can “Natkhat Kanhaiya” run to you.

4). **PADA SEVANAM** Serving His Lotus Feet



- The Srimad Bhagavatam says: 'In material existence, money, family etc, are a cause of fear and strife unless we surrender all to His Lotus feet (3.9.6). Then All becomes holy.
- The obvious example of this kind of Bhakti is Shree Lakshmi, who is seen in constant service of Lord Vishnu's lotus feet

Pada Sevanam in Pushtimarg

- Refuge in the Lord's lotus feet takes us back into Leela from Maryada-We were in Nitya Leela before coming to earth.
- Mahaprabhuji has taken us back to Leela by Brahmasabandh.



- Tilak signifies complete refuge in Shri Thakurji's feet-
Total servitude

5). **ARCHANAM** Service to Lord –Physical

- physical worship of God in the form of an idol etc, using the correct rituals (upacharas) as prescribed in the scriptures.
- These rituals consist of procedures like bathing and clothing the Deity, and also offering Him scents, food etc.
- An essential requirement of Archana is the presence of faith (Shraddha) in the devotee.



Archanam in Pushtimarg

- The idol in our home is Actual God, swarup,
- Not Murti, ie a representation of God
- Difference in Puja & Seva
- Attention is paid to the finest detail as if real person, looking at Thakurji's comfort-
- Snan,
- Vastra, Attar
- Shringar, Bhog



6). **VANDANAM** Bow to the Lord

- let go of the senses you think you hold and bow your head humbly to the divine
- Akrura-After seeing Sri Krishna in Vrindavana, he rolled around on the earth saying:
“Oh! This is the dust touched by the feet of my beloved Lord”



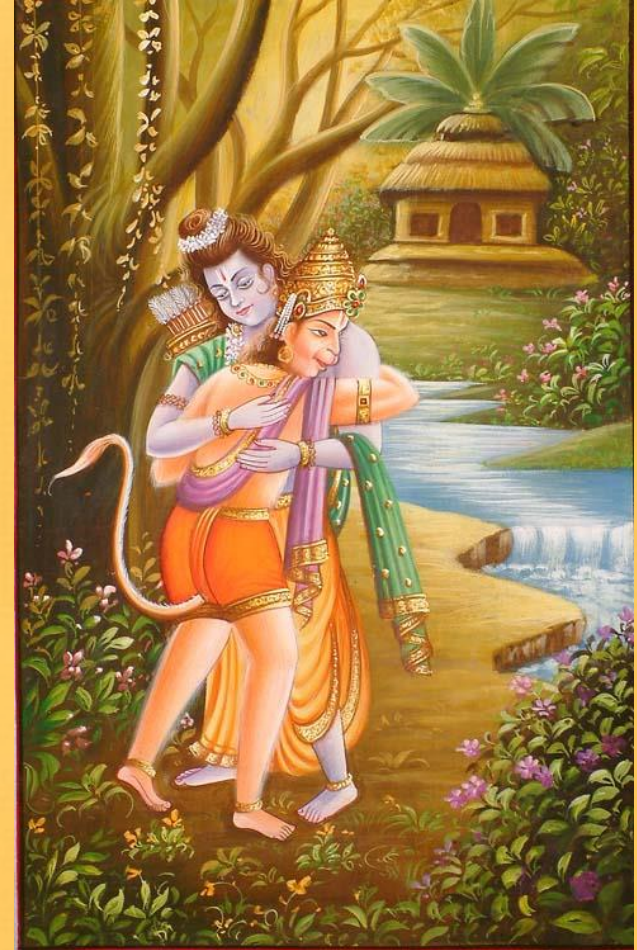
Vandanam in Pushtimarg

- **Dandvat Pranam** –Ritual of Surrendering themselves to God or Guru
- Dand = stick, Vat=Lie down
- Fully prostrate before swaroop,
- Surrender all karma to God /Guru through mind, body and speech.
- All greeted Jai Shri Krishna except God and Guru



7.) **DASYAM**-Being His Servant

- Fulfilling masters' orders selflessly
- & without questions
- Understanding wealth, life is useful as long as its of use to God
- Shri Hanuman of course was perfect example of Dasyam



Dasyam in Pushtimarg

- Serve with love and not servility
- The ideal dasa should treat the world and people as the Lord's Leela
- Show humility in speech and thoughts to All
- To be a servant's servant-
"Das No Das"
- How much one has Dasyam, determines the spiritual progress.....



Sakhya

- Sakhya means personal friendship with God
- Desire to be in His Company
- Has conversations with the Lord
- Happy to mention His name
- Arjuna chose Sri Krishna as charioteer over Narayani Sena-
- Arjuna best friend as well as bhakta



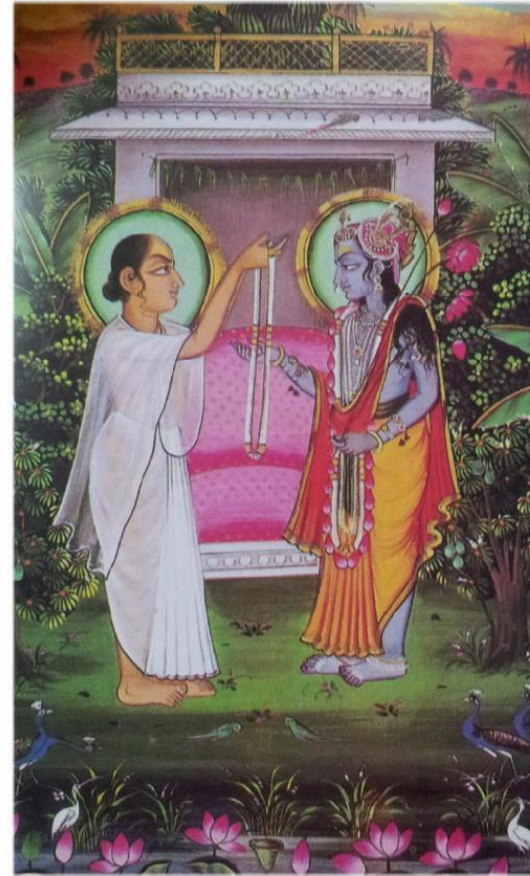
Sakhya in Pushtimarg

- Because we have friendship with Sri Krishna in Nitya Leela, we are His friends again.
- We were Vraj bhakto then as well as now
- Gopas were just interested in play with their friend Krishna. They were not influenced in the amount of Rakshases he killed



Aatmanivedan (Self-dedication):

- Aatmanivedan (Self-dedication): The entire universe is created by an Ultimate power, Lord Shri Krshna for his divine play (Leela).
- Brahmsabandh, its not us but Shri Thakurji's actions that is the driving force
- Samarpan, my family, wealth is yours
- After so many lifetimes, you are finally with Sri Thakurji



- In Pushtimarg, just like a mango can be eaten in different ways to derive different pleasures, the same with Navadha Bhakti
- Ashtayam Seva kram has all aspects of Navadha Bhakti.

